

SENATE RESOLUTION 15
By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Fred C. Lofton on the occasion
of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fred C. Lofton is one such estimable person who has served with probity for nearly twenty-nine years as pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, ordained as a minister for forty-five years, Dr. Lofton is a nationally renowned theologian, civil rights activist, educator, and author; for nearly three decades, he has inspired countless souls with his tremendous messages at the 105-year-old landmark Metropolitan Baptist Church, ably filling a pulpit where Dr. Martin Luther King once spoke; and

WHEREAS, an active and important part of his community and his profession, Dr. Lofton has long participated in numerous civic organizations; Mayor Willie Herenton praised Dr. Lofton for contributing "a great deal to the civic life of Memphis"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lofton contributes his time and numerous talents to the boards of Tri-State Bank, the Congress of National Black Churches, LeMoyne-Owen College, Morehouse

School of Religion, and the Progressive National Baptist Convention, which he formerly served as president; he is also president of the Church and Community Investment Fund; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Morehouse School of Religion and a prestigious doctoral program at Emory University, Dr. Lofton is a gifted author; he has written seven books and now plans to focus his literary talents on "the authentic church"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his literary endeavors, this devout Christian will continue to be an active part of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, will be sharing his powerful oratorical talents as an interim pastor for the American Baptist Convention, and will help train and encourage the next generation of ministers; and

WHEREAS, a caring and supportive mentor, Dr. Lofton leaves his congregation in the capable hands of pastor-elect Dr. Reginald Porter, who has worked with, and learned from, Dr. Lofton for fifteen years as director of counseling and as associate pastor; and

WHEREAS, highly respected and admired throughout the Memphis Christian community, Dr. Lofton has been called "one of the finest preachers in the city" by Greek Orthodox Church Enunciation pastor emeritus Father Frank Vieron, who, in reflecting upon the many contributions of Dr. Lofton, said, "I think I stand at the end of a very long line of admirers"; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's churches and their congregations are among those institutions in our great state upon which a just and orderly society is based, and Christian leaders are worthy of special commendation; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Lofton has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his congregation, community, and people nationwide; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we extend to Dr. Fred C. Lofton of Metropolitan Baptist Church our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.